recognition and supervision of stock exchanges/platforms of stock exchanges for small and medium enterprises was placed in the public domain.

(c) The need and criteria of listing at SME exchange/platform are different from those for listing on BSE and NSE. Therefore, it is felt that separate SME exchange/platform of existing stock exchange are required.

(d) No timeline has been set by SEBI for the setting up of such an exchange/platform and for trading to commence.

(e) SEBI Board in the meeting held on 9th November 2009, approved the broad operational guidelines for SME exchange/platform.

Impact of economic slow down

*280. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that economic slow down has hit plan resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The economic slowdown in 2008-09 was largely on account of global shocks; the first half of the year, witnessed steep rise in international commodity prices while the global financial crisis emerged in the second half of the year whose impact spilled over to the current year as well. To minimise the adverse impact on the economy, the Reserve Bank of India took a number of monetary measures and the Government under took a fiscal expansion including through stimulus measures announced in December 2008, January 2009 and February 2009. Due to this conscious fiscal expansion, resources flow to plan schemes increased in 2008-09 and 2009-10 (BE) as detailed in the Table below.

Year	Total Expenditure (Rs. crore)	Plan Expenditure	Total Expenditure (As per cent of GDP)	Plan Expenditure
2007-08	7,12,671	2,05,082	15.1	4.3
2008-09 (Prov. Act)	8,81,469	2,75,450	16.6	5.2
2009-10(BE)	10,20,838	3,25,149	17.4	5.6

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Merger of IA and AI

1997. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT: